THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The cost of doubling comes to about Rs. 1 cr. per km. while the cost of Gauge conversion is about Rs. 651 lakhs per km. The carrying capacity of broad guage is double that of metre gauge and immediately on conversion the section has double the capacity and can thus handle that much additional traffic.

(c) and (d) Gauge conversion is a more economic means of capacity generation on sections where the converted section will provide alternative routes of similar or shorter lengths. In all other cases when the capacity of single line sections gets saturated, doubling has to be taken up.

Conversion of Rail bridge into road-cum-rail bridge in Rajamundry

4645. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the third Railway bridge at Rajamundry across the Godavari River into a road-cum-rail bridge;

(b) if so, the dteails thereof;

(c) whether it is technically possible to effect this conversion at this juncture;

(d) whether any study has been commissioned by the Railways to fix costs of such a conversion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase of revenue in Vijayawada Division

4646. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the annual increase of revenue in the Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway during the last three financial years;

(b) whether the Railways are making any plans to correspondingly increase facilities for both passenger and transporters of goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Revenue (earnings) of Vijayawada Division, compiled on originating basis during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 alongwith the percentage increase/decrease over the earlier years, are furnished below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Earning	Percentage increase over previous year
1992-93	218.75	-3%
1993-94	220.29	28%
994-95	300.35	7%

Figures for 1994-95 are inclusive of approximates for the month March, 1995, accounts of which are yet to be closed.

(b) and (c) The following additional facilities are being planned to augment transport capacity:

(i) Electrification of Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section is in progress. The work is targeted for completion by 1996-97.

(ii) Platforms on Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section are being extended so that loads of long distance trains can be augmented by 3 to 4 coaches each.

(iii) The provision of crossing stations at Peddavotapalli, Pulla and Badampudi on Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam section costing Rs. 8.56 crores and provision of centralised panel interlocking for the operation of points and signals at Rajahmundry costing Rs. 4.85 crores are already sanctioned for execution to augment the line capacity from 36 paths at present to 40 each way, thereby facilitating introduction of additional train services on Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section.

(iv) Five additional crossing stations have been planned on Vijayawada-Guntur-Secunderabad section which will substantially increase the capacity of this section to handle more trains.

(v) Gauge Conversion works are in progress on GTL Division.

(vi) Augmentation of facilities at stations is a continuous process and wherever so warranted by the increase in passenger traffic the same is undertaken through Railway's Annual Works Programme and subject to overall availability of funds/relative priorities. Accordingly, in 1994-95, works pertaining to improvement/ augmentation of facilities have been completed at Anaparti, Annavaram, Guntur, Narasapur, Kakinada Town, Vetapalem, Akividu, Kaikalur, Ongole, Nellore and Rajahmundry railway stations. Further works have been taken up or are proposed to be taken up at Nellore, Tenali, Kavali, Rajahmundry, Guntur, Nidubrolu, Anakapalle, Tuni, Ongole, Chinna Ganjam, Chirala, Vijayawada, Bhimavaram Town, Nidadavolu, Modukuru, Narsipatnam Road and Gudivada Railway Stations also.

Introduction of computerised booking in Andhra Pradesh

4647. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce computerised booking in all district headquarters in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how many new computerised booking centres would be opened in South Central Railway, particularly in the district headquarters in 1995-96; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. However, 28 locations including 19 stations and 9 satellite locations in Andhra Pradesh have already been provided with this facility.

(b) and (c) The provision of computerised reservation facilities has been approved for Kakinada City Boking Office in 1995-96. In addition, the provision of these facilities has also been approved for Thirumalai and Karimganj City Booking Offices.